

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6869**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1515

**DATE PREPARED:** Dec 19, 2000

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Court Fees.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Mark Goodpaster

**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9852

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill has the following provisions:

(A) It reduces the deposit that must be made to transfer a case from a small claims docket to a plenary docket from \$70 to \$65.

(B) It establishes a \$2 document management fee to be collected in all civil and criminal cases. It provides that money in a clerk's record perpetuation fund may be used for any document management purpose.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2001.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:** Provision A: Reducing the deposit from \$70 to \$65 will result in a revenue loss of \$5 for each case that is transferred from small claims to civil dockets. The State General Fund receives 70% of the deposit. Consequently, the state's share would be reduced by \$3.50 per case. The number of cases that are transferred from small claims to civil dockets is not known.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** Provision A: The general funds at the county and municipal level receive 30% of the deposit. Consequently, the local share would be reduced by \$1.50 per case. The number of cases that are transferred from small claims to civil dockets are not known.

Provision B: A \$2 document management fee added to the current court fees is estimated to generate \$1.8 M. This revenue would be deposited in the clerk's record perpetuation fund for either the preservation of records, the improvement of record keeping systems and equipment, and any document management purpose.

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** Clerks of trial courts and city and town courts.

**Information Sources:** 1999 Judicial Report.